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PATENT

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

2 11 bic /2 2001

Kelli J. Endreson

Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants

Kyle M. Hanson, Robert A. Weaver, Jerry Simchuk and

Raymon F. Thompson

Application No.

09/882,309

Confirmation No.: 7064

Filed

June 14, 2001

For

DIFFUSER WITH A SPIRAL OPENING PATTERN FOR

ELECTROPLATING REACTOR VESSEL

Art Unit

1741

Docket No. :

291958123US1

(Client Ref. No. P99-0023US2)

Date

October 12, 2001

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Commissioner:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please add a new section directly before the "TECHNICAL FIELD" as follows:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/351,864 filed on July 12, 1999, and issued on July 3, 2001 as U.S. Patent No. 6,254,742.